

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Belleville, PA**



**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2020**  
**Parking Lot Service**

## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Though we may never picture it, on the long trek to Bethlehem, some must have encountered wind, and rain yet nothing stopped them. They came to praise and worship anyway without a car or canopy to shelter them. We don't know what to expect this Christmas Eve; we do know that God is with us, Jesus will enter our hearts and the faith of the people of St. John's and the Holy Spirit will make worship possible and special one way or another. Even if it's rained on, the parade to praise at the crèche will go on.

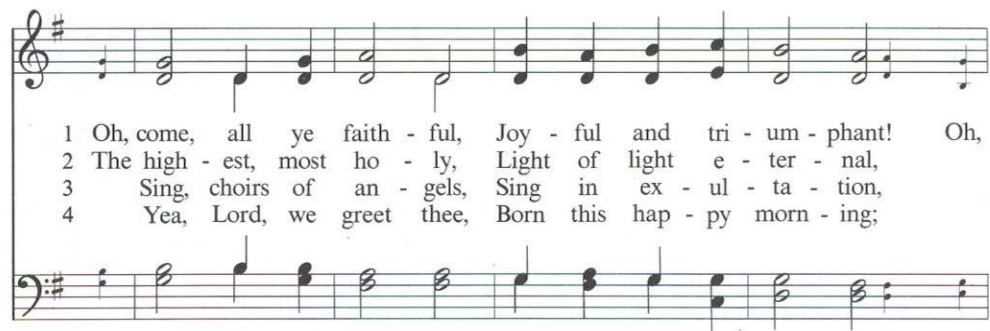
At a couple of points in the service you will be asked to shine the light - flick on your car lights - (don't forget to turn them off later though). Before *Silent Night* we will also light our battery candles or a candle you bring .

We continue to practice safety precautions with mask wearing if outside your cars.

**GREETING:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit let us worship God

45

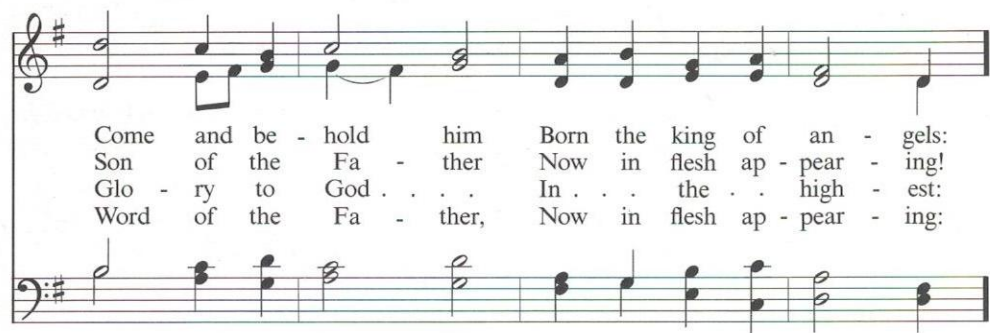
# Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, Light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

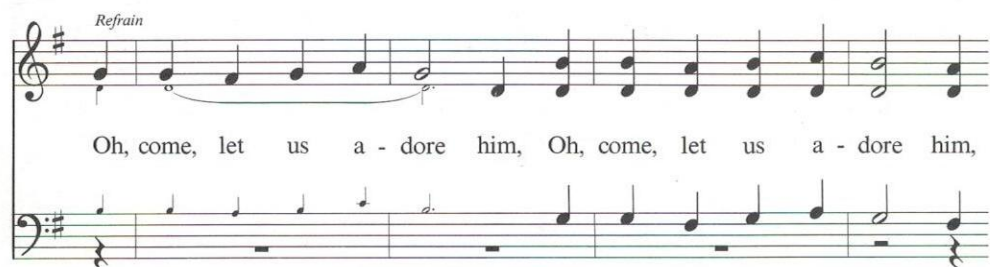


come ye, oh, come . . ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee . . be . . glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . In . . the . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

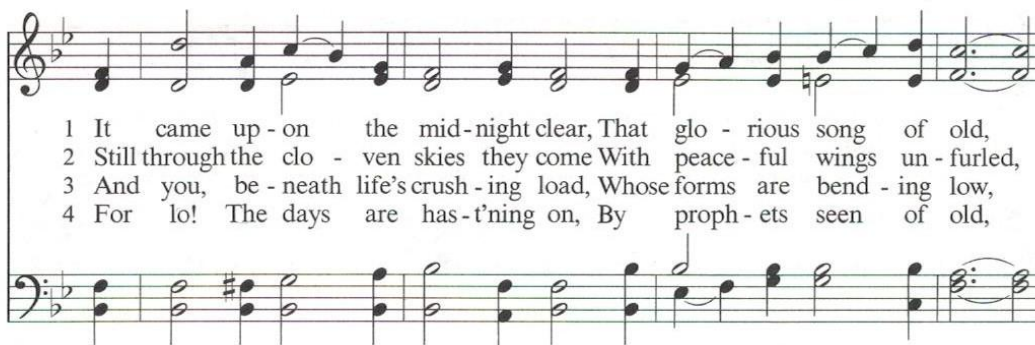
**PRAYER** ~ Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## *The Light of Christ*

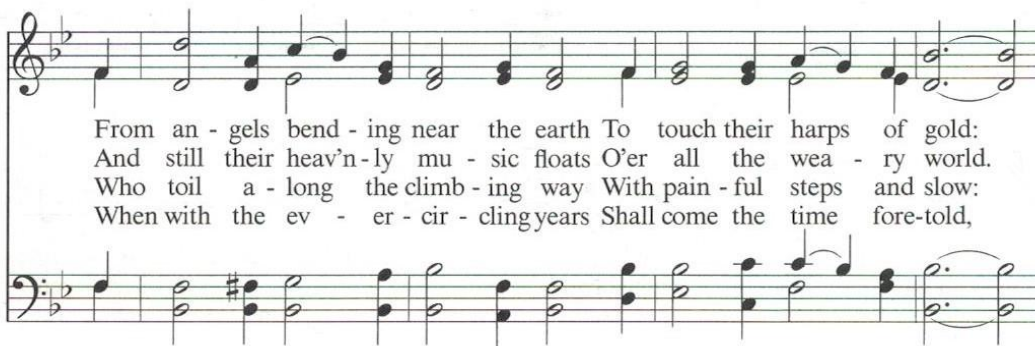
**HYMN** ~All verses

54

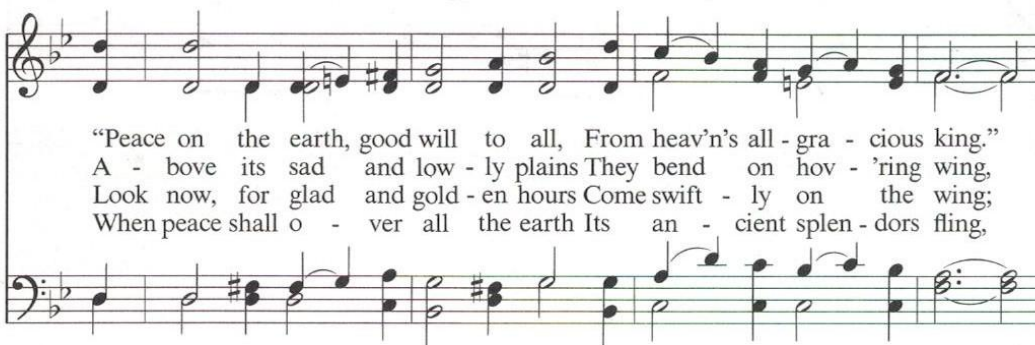
## It Came upon the Midnight Clear



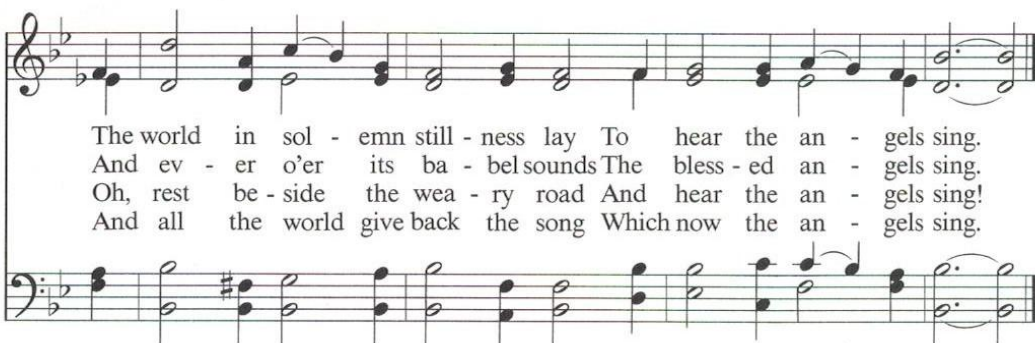
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By proph - ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.  
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow:  
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing;  
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 Oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road And hear the an - gels sing!  
 And all the world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES:**

*Tonight we light the Christ Candle in the center of the wreath. We light it for Christ the center of our life, the center of our Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Hallelujah*

**We lift the light of Hope.** (we light the first purple candle) (Chime)

**We lift the light of Peace.** (we light the next purple candle clockwise)

**We lift the light of Joy** (we light the pink candle )

**We lift the light of Love** (we light the last purple candle)

**We lift the light of Christ.** (we light the Christ Candle)

## **LESSON:** Isaiah 9:2-7

Pastor: With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; (*Shine your lights* )

those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. (*Shine your lights*)

**Special Music:** Susie Yoo

Pastor: For unto us a son is given, and the government shall rest upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called:

Choir and people: (sing out or speak out triumphantly)

**Wonderful . . . Counselor . . . the mighty God. . .**

**the everlasting Father. . .the Prince of Peace.**

# The Birth of Christ

HYMN ~ One time instrumental then sing Verse 1

40

## What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

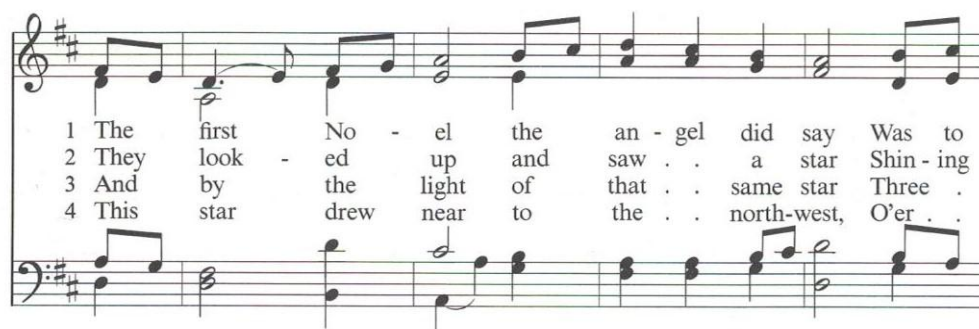
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

# The Revelation of Christ

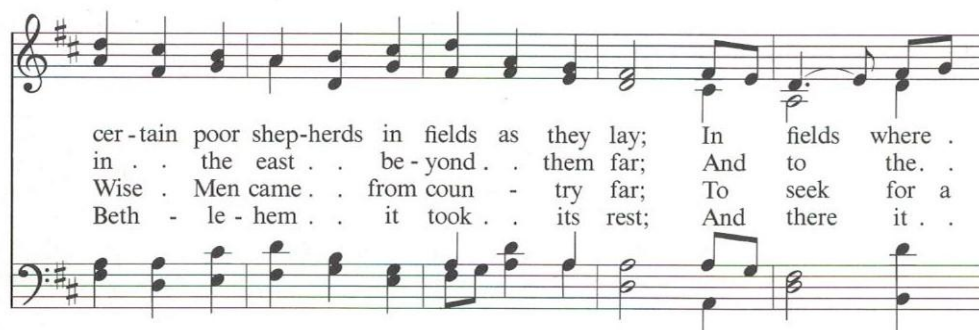
## HYMN ~ Verses 1 and 4

56

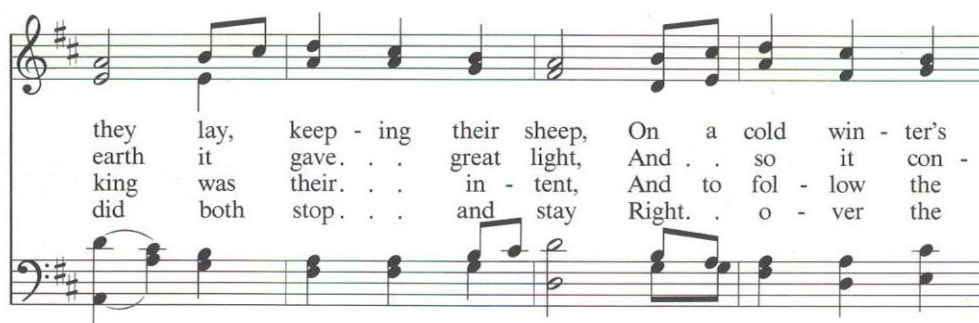
## The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star Shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star Three .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . north-west, O'er . .



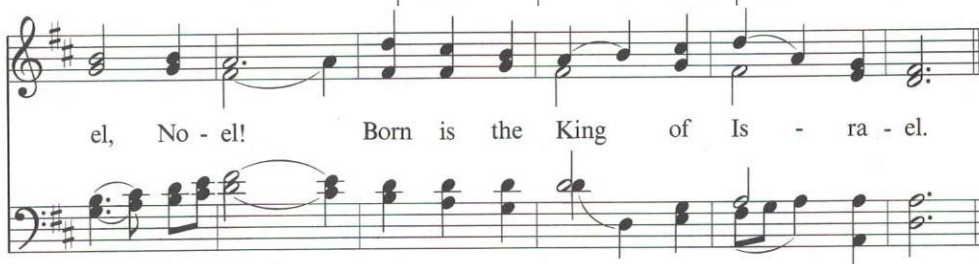
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where .  
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; And to the . .  
 Wise . Men came . . from coun - try far; To seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; And there it . .



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . great light, And . . so it con -  
 king was their . . in - tent, And to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . and stay Right. . o - ver the



Refrain  
 night . that was . . so deep.  
 tin - ued both day . . and night, No - el, No - el, No -  
 star . . wher - ev - er it went.  
 place . where Je - sus lay.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:9-10

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

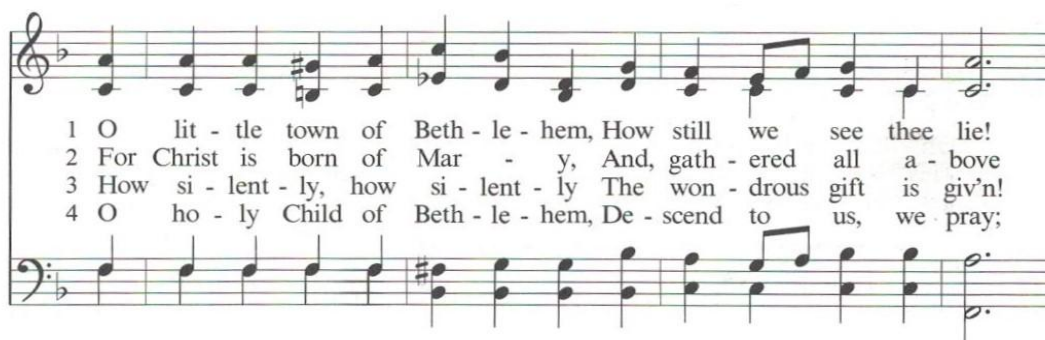
**MESSAGE:** *From Fear to Joy*

## *The Journey to Christ*

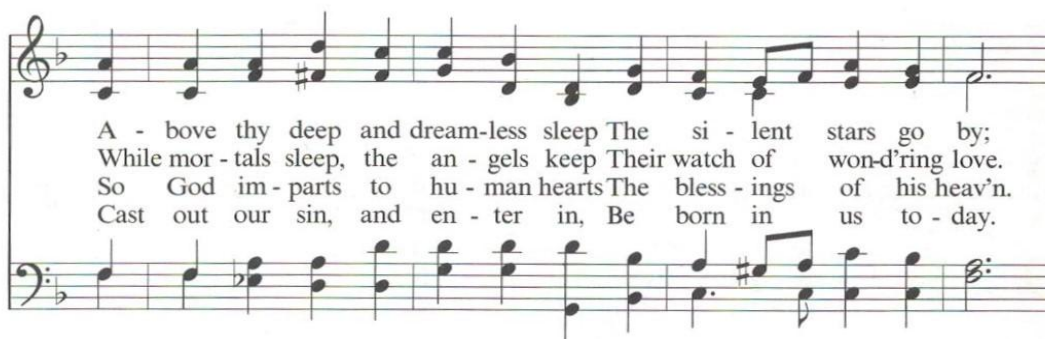
**HYMN** ~ All verses

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

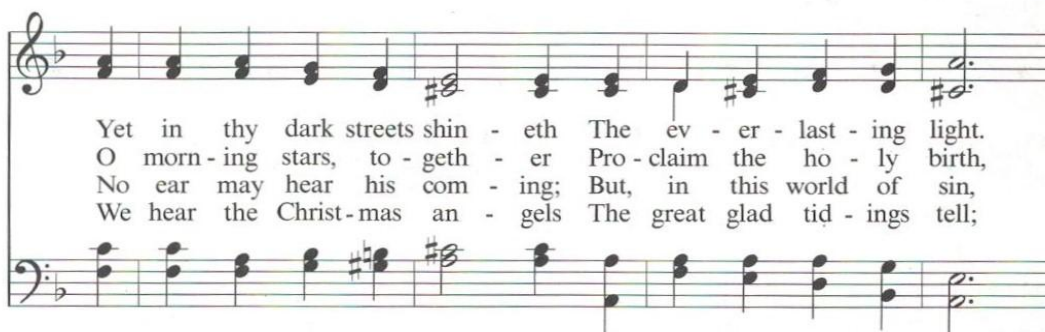
41



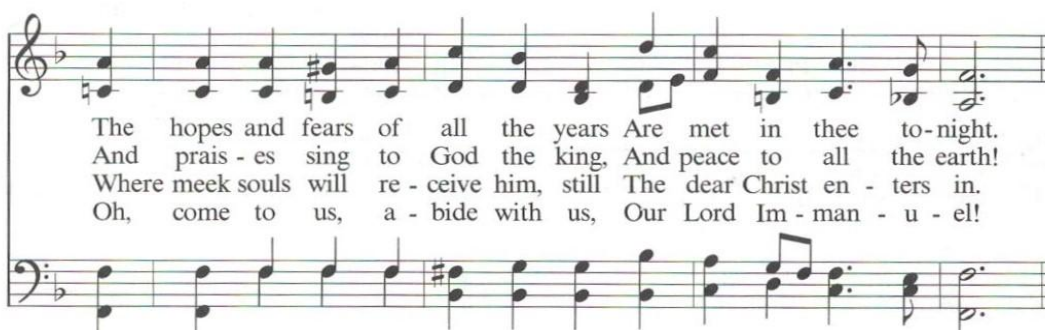
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



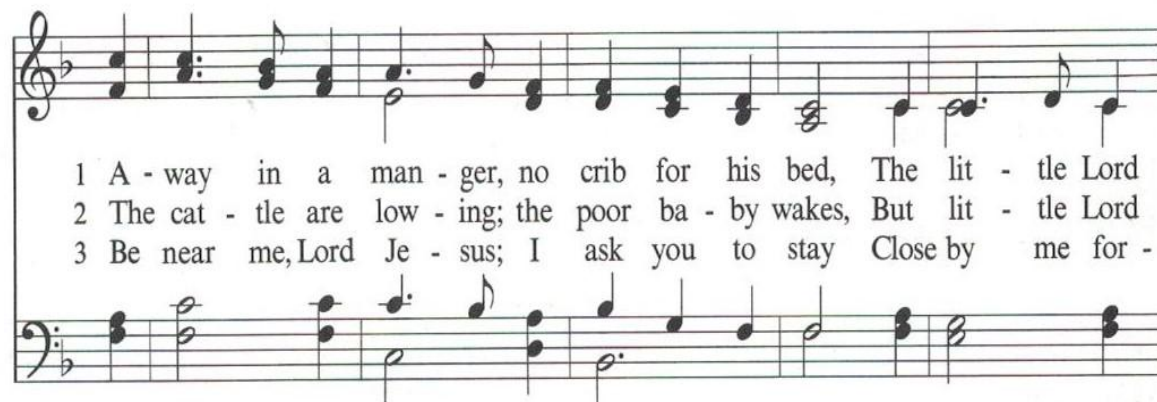
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; But, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
Oh, come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

# Away in a Manger


67



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay Close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky . . looked  
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care And fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

Text: American, 1885  
Tune: American, 19th cent.

AWAY IN A MANGER  
11 11 11 11

### ***The Peace of Christ***

**P** The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

**C** **Glory to God in the Highest!**

**P** Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, in heaven.

**C** **On earth peace, good will toward all peoples!**

**Candlelighting** - *Silent Night* will be sung after all the candles are lit.

**HYMN ~ All verses**

## **Silent Night, Holy Night!**

65

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from your ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, keep you in His light and truth and love now and forever. **C Amen**

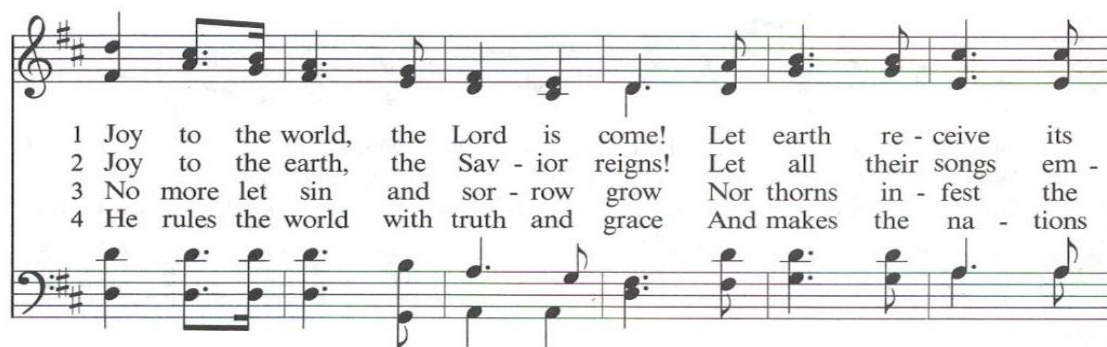
*The candles are extinguished.*

## *The Joy of Christ*

### CLOSING HYMN ~ All Verses

## Joy to the World

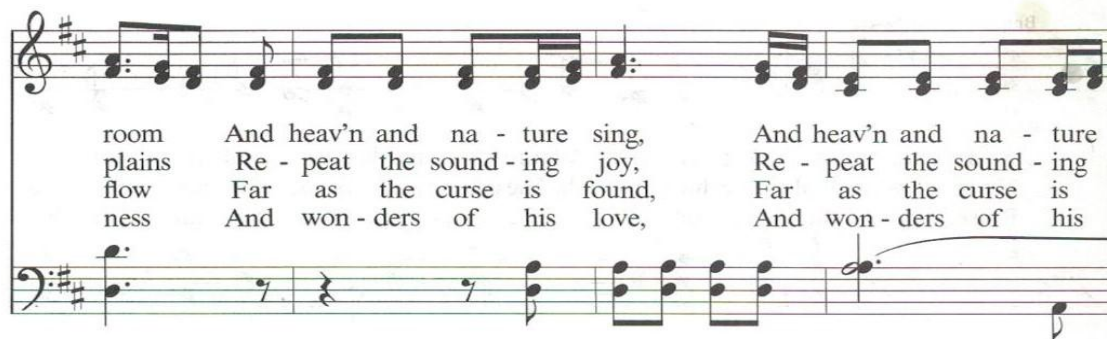
39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## **POSTLUDE ~ Verse 1 and refrain**

We wish you a Merry Christmas, We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

## **SYNOD NEWS**

### **Musicians and leaders from around the Synod participate in our parking lot service Sunday Dec 27.**

The season of Christmas extends from Christmas Eve through Epiphany. The first Sunday of Christmas, that Sunday between Christmas and New Years at our church is often devoted to lots of carol singing. This year we have the opportunity to share, through our parking lot service, music broadcast from choirs and special musicians around the Synod as well as hearing from leaders and lay leaders. At the last Synod Assembly one of the priorities that were set was greater collaboration and cooperation between the churches. Some conferences have joined choirs for special occasions and collaborated in special worship services during the year. One of the blessings of Covid will be the opportunity to hear their voices and enjoy their music in this service.

The Synod assembly is still looking for lay members to be representatives to the Assembly which this year will be held by Zoom. A great opportunity to participate without having to travel from home.

A special Christmas program of the message of the season through Carols and Art of the nativity from previous concerts given by Pastor Ela and Bill will be available for all to view at the Facebook page @SynodofTrinity. A program by jazz preacher/pianist, Bill Carter is also available for viewing.